CPF GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

GFEP ASSESSMENT ON FORESTS AND POVERTY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1) Background

According to the World Bank more than 780 million people live below the international poverty line of US$1.90 a day. Around 75% of these poor people inhabit rural areas, in many cases regions of high forest cover. A number of studies conclude that poor and vulnerable populations tend to concentrate in environmentally fragile areas and rely disproportionately on natural resources and ecosystem services. At the same time scientific evidence shows that forests can support rural livelihoods, have a buffer function in maintaining livelihoods and represent a natural insurance.

A cross-sectoral, aligned and synergistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals (the SDGs) requires the development of measures that take into account the role of forests and trees in poverty alleviation. Sustainable Development Goal #1 (SDG 1) aims at ending poverty in all its forms, everywhere. Several targets of SDG 1 are linked to forests, notably target 1.4 aiming at *"equal rights of the poor and vulnerable to economic resources, as well as their access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property"*; and target 1.5 aiming at *"building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters"*.

In this context, reliable and synthesized scientific information is needed to be able to use synergies and to achieve optimal trade-offs between poverty reduction and forest restoration, sustainable forest management and forest conservation. Given the multi-dimensional relationship between forests and poverty as well as its cross-sectoral nature, it is timely to undertake a thorough global scientific assessment of this relationship.

Based on these considerations, IUFRO, on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) establishes an Expert Panel on Forests and Poverty in the framework of the GFEP initiative, taking into account the outcome of the GFEP Scoping Meeting held on 23-24 May 2019 at FAO Headquarters in Rome (Italy).

2) Task

It shall be the task of the Expert Panel on Forests and Poverty to carry out a comprehensive global assessment of available scientific information about the interactions between forests and poverty, and to prepare a report to inform relevant international policy processes and the discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related SDGs.

More specifically, the assessment shall address the following main thematic elements:

- The different dimensions of the relationship between forests, trees and poverty, as well as the roles of forests and trees in poverty reduction;
- Synergies between restoration, sustainable management and conservation of forests as well as trees in other land-uses and poverty alleviation;
- Trade-offs between development for poverty reduction and forest restoration, sustainable forest management and forest conservation; and
- Analysis of the policy context, including governance and land use planning frameworks, and identification of response options at various levels.

The assessment shall be carried out on the basis of the draft thematic outline in Annex I, developed at the GFEP Scoping Meeting. It shall build on existing scientific literature, information and knowledge and shall draw from various fields of science. Based on its assessment, the Expert Panel may also identify priorities for further research.

3) Composition

The Expert Panel consists of up to 30 scientists from various disciplines with recognized expertise in the topics of the assessment as reflected by the annexed outline. Expert Panel Members participate in the Panel in their personal capacity and do not represent any institution or organization.

The Expert Panel Members will be selected by IUFRO as lead agency of GFEP. The following general criteria shall be applied when selecting Expert Panel Members: areas of scientific expertise; regional balance; cultural diversity; and gender balance.

4) Modalities of work

The Expert Panel shall conduct its work independently on the basis of these Terms of Reference. The scientific work of the Expert Panel is overseen by the Panel Chair. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the thematic work of the Panel in carrying out the assessment and preparing the assessment report in an effective and timely manner. The Chair ensures that the Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) communicate closely with each other and periodically share drafted sections so that the report will be coherent, consistent, and of the highest possible scientific quality.

The Expert Panel members serve as CLAs or Lead Authors (LAs) of the assessment report. Depending on their area of specialization and the report's structure, Coordinating Lead Authors are responsible for coordinating individual chapters of the assessment report and ensuring coherence, quality and timely delivery of their chapter(s). Lead Authors prepare specific chapter sections of the assessment report in collaboration with the CLAs and other chapter authors. The Panel may enlist other experts as Contributing Authors (CAs) to assist with their work. Contributing Authors are not members of the Expert Panel, but their authorship shall be clearly acknowledged in the assessment report.

The summary for policy makers shall be prepared by the GFEP coordination team in consultation with the Panel Chair and with assistance of communication experts.

The Expert Panel carries out its work through both meetings and electronic communication. The proposed main activities and the associated time schedule are described under item 8 below. The exact dates and mode of panel meetings shall be determined by the GFEP Coordinator and the Chair in consultation with the Expert Panel Members, bearing in mind financial and in-kind resources available from governments and CPF members for purposes of the assessment.

Operational and technical support will be provided by the IUFRO Secretariat as well as, to the extent possible, by CPF Members.

5) Sources of information and validation

The Expert Panel shall utilize the following sources of information in its assessment: (i) published, peer-reviewed scientific literature; (ii) other relevant sources of information, where appropriately documented, including sources of traditional knowledge.

The Expert Panel shall refer to the original literature whenever possible rather than to syntheses, summary documents or similar. Furthermore, the Expert Panel shall make best use of CPF Members as sources of information.

6) Peer and expert review

The assessment report shall be subject to a double-blind peer and expert review prior to its completion. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the assessment report and its various chapters present a comprehensive, objective and balanced scientific view of the topics and issues covered by the report.

Peer and expert reviewers shall be selected by the GFEP coordination team, taking into account the selection criteria that also apply to Expert Panel Members. Reviewers shall not be involved in the writing of the assessment report.

Review comments shall be collected by the GFEP coordination team and evaluated by the Expert Panel members. The review period shall not be less than four weeks. All review comments shall be provided to the Chair and the Coordinating Lead Authors in writing. The review comments will be shared with the Lead Authors and serve as a basis for revision of the assessment report prior to its publication.

7) Outcome and publications

The assessment report shall be composed of (a) a comprehensive, peer-reviewed full report and (b) a summary for policy makers ('policy brief'). The rules of the CPF for decision making and the use of the CPF logo in publications shall apply.

8) Duration of work, main activities and suggested time schedule

The Expert Panel is established for a limited time period. Its work should be initiated as soon as possible and completed on time for consideration at United Nations General Assembly in 2020. The following tentative timetable for the assessment is suggested:

Scoping Meeting - GFEP Forests and Poverty	23 – 24 May 2019
Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel	End of May 2019
Selecting members of the GFEP Expert Panel	May/June 2019
1st meeting of the Expert Panel (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA)	27 – 29 August 2019
Detailed chapter outlines	September 2019
First draft manuscripts of chapters	Autumn 2019
2nd meeting of the Expert Panel (location tbc)	December 2019/ January 2020
Final draft of chapters for peer review	February 2020
Peer review process of chapters	February/March 2020
3rd meeting of the Expert Panel (location tbc)	March/April 2020
Final revision of the chapters	End of April 2020
Editing of the Assessment Report	May - June 2020
Development and editing of Policy Brief	May - June 2020
Layout of the Assessment Report and Policy Brief	July 2020
Printing the Assessment Report and Policy Brief	August 2020
Launch – 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 75), New York City, USA.	15-30 September 2020

9) Compensation

Travel costs and daily subsistence allowances shall be paid to Expert Panel Members attending Expert Panel Meetings in accordance with UN rules and regulations.

ANNEX I: DRAFT THEMATIC OUTLINE OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

- **INTRODUCTION**

- **FRAMING CHAPTER:** Analysis of the multidimensions of poverty related to forests and tree-based landscapes (*incl. for urban areas*)
  - Definitions of poverty and wellbeing, including self-perception of poverty and wellbeing, equality index, land, health etc. (e.g. multidimensional poverty index - FAO-OPHI)
  - Review of dimensions of poverty (material and non-material, socially and spatially differentiated)
  - Scales of forest dependency/reliance (socially and spatially differentiated)
  - Interlinkages with SDGs
  - Defining trade-offs and synergies (implications)

  - ➢ *Guiding question: How can the dimensions of poverty related to forests and tree-based landscapes be framed for the report?*

- **FOREST-POVERTY LINKS: CURRENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE**
  - Role of forests and trees in poverty and wellbeing (material and non-material; socially and spatially differentiated)

  - ➢ *Guiding question: What do we currently know about how forests and trees contribute to poverty alleviation and wellbeing of the poor?*

- **LEVERS OF CHANGE**
  - Institutional, economic, political and social poverty-forest levers (rights, markets and value chains, investments, tenure, technology, finance, knowledge, infrastructure, policy, norms and power relations, including gender etc.)
  - Potential framework:
    - Factors --> forests and trees --> poverty
    - Factors --> poverty --> forests and trees

  - ➢ *Guiding question: What kinds of policies/mechanisms lead to impacts on the poverty-forests link?*

- **PROXIMATE CAUSES AND UNDERLYING CONDITIONS**
  - Proximate causes enabling/constraining the achievement of goals related to poverty alleviation and improved forest outcomes, such as land-use change, natural resource conflicts etc.
  - Underlying conditions enabling/constraining the achievement of goals related to poverty alleviation and forests, such as asymmetries of power, corruption, lack of political will, marginalization etc.
  - Potential future challenges and opportunities related to predicted trends (e.g. climate change, demographic change etc.)

  - ➢ *Guiding question: What factors, processes and conditions constrain/enable levers of change on the poverty-forests link, and how they might evolve?*

- **RESPONSE OPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**
  - o Response options [*could become a separate chapter based on the discussions at the 1st Expert Panel Meeting*]
  - o Key messages
  - o Knowledge gaps

  - ➤ *Guiding question (1): What spaces are there to address constraining conditions and maximize enabling conditions (for both poverty alleviation and forests)?*

  - ➤ *Guiding question (2): What are the key messages and knowledge gaps?*